

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2013 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release #22

Summer Announcement #20, District 2 Commercial Beach Seine and Dip Net Periods

Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area

The preliminary commercial harvest in Districts 1 and 2 combined through June 23 is approximately 38,700 summer chum salmon with a reported 243 Chinook salmon released alive.

The Pilot Station sonar summer chum salmon passage estimate through June 23 is approximately 926,000 fish which is above the median of 499,000 for this date. Based on the current abundance of summer chum salmon and the minimal impact to Chinook salmon observed in this fishery to date, additional commercial fishing opportunity is being allowed to target summer chum salmon. This announcement opens three 12-hour commercial summer chum salmon fishing periods in District 2.

District 2 Commercial Beach Seine and Dip Net: Commercial salmon fishing in District 2 will be open with beach seine and dip net gear only. These will be 12-hour commercial fishing periods.

Period #5: 12:00 noon Tuesday, June 25, until 12:00 midnight Tuesday, June 25
Period #6: 12:00 noon Wednesday, June 26, until 12:00 midnight Wednesday, June 26
Period #7: 12:00 noon Thursday, June 27, until 12:00 midnight Thursday, June 27

Fishermen using dip nets or beach seine gear are required to immediately release Chinook salmon back to the water alive. Chinook salmon caught and released must be recorded on a fish ticket. In the event that a Chinook salmon is killed by these gear types, the dead Chinook salmon must be recorded on a fish ticket and forfeited to the state.

District 2 Subsistence Beach Seine and Dip Net: Subsistence salmon fishing in District 2 with beach seine and dip net gear only will be open at the same times as these commercial fishing periods. Subsistence fishermen are also required to immediately release Chinook salmon alive from these gear types.

Beach seine and dip net gear specifications are the same for both commercial and subsistence fishing. Beach seine mesh size is restricted to 4-inch or smaller. Beach seines must be set from the beach and hauled to the beach. Dip net mesh size is restricted to 4.5-inch or smaller. However, a commercial permit holder may operate up to four dip nets while subsistence fishermen may only operate one dip net per person.

Fishermen have been in compliance with the regulations regarding new gear types. However, fishermen are reminded that the requirement to release Chinook salmon will be strictly enforced. Great care must be taken to assure Chinook salmon are released unharmed so that they can swim the long distance upriver and spawn successfully.

Commercial fishermen interested in using these new gear types are encouraged to contact the processor for more information regarding gear availability and to confirm their market prior to commercial fishing.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the Emmonak ADF&G office at 949-1320. The Emmonak ADF&G office will stand by on VHF channel 7A.

This has been an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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